The Member requested that the Kuttapuzha *thodu* should be cut. That subject had been represented at successive sessions of the Assembly. The people were prepared to pay any cess that might be imposed.

The Mulakkanchira *thodu*, or *Chenal* canal as it was called, also had to be cut to connect Kottayam with Changanacherry. In carrying out that work, the Main Central road at the 90th mile stone had to be cut to a length of about 1,000 feet. The people were prepared to hand over the necessary lands free of cost.

The Member then explained the difficulties of the ryots in the working of Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation and requested relief being granted.

The following relief measures were proposed:—

(1) The Director of Agriculture or any other special officer should be deputed to stay for 3 months in a central locality in Central Travancore where *punja* cultivation was going on, *i. e.*, from Thulam to Dhanu, his duty being to help the ryots in all operations contemplated under section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation.

(2) To settle disputes in connection with *puravarampus* and to advise and help the ryots generally in all matters of *punja* cultivation, an Agricultural Inspector should be posted.

(3) Applications made under the Irrigation Regulation should be disposed of by the special officer within 15 days failing which the ryots should be at liberty to enter on the particular paddy field where disputes had arisen and carry out the necessary works at the cost of the owner of the field and such cost should be realised as land tax.

(4) Loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation should be given by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries or on his recommendation.

(5) Manures should be sold to the *punja* ryots on credit and the cost of such manures should be the first charge on the harvest.

(6) A Panchayat Court should be established in the Changanacherry taluk to dispose of Civil suits arising from or on account of *punja* cultivation.

The Member finally complained about the difficulties and hardships attendant on the registration of boats under the Public Canals and Ferries Regulation and requested that boats less than 40 inches in girth in the centre should be exempted from license, just like boats of half a tonnage, in the interests of *punja* cultivators. Lastly, he prayed that the ryots of *punja* lands who formed the inhabitants of the western *pakuthies* of Changanacherry taluk should have another Member for the Assembly as was the case till 1088.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

54. Need for State aid in the matter of Agriculture and Trade in the Shertalay taluk.

Mr. Adichan Narayana Pillai (Member, Shertalay Taluk) said that the means of livelihood of the people of the taluk were agricultural operations in paddy and cocoanut. According to his calculation, the inhabitants of the taluk could have two *edangalies* of paddy daily per head, provided the available paddy fields were cultivated scientifically. But they were labouring under several disabilities. The Member first explained the nature of *kari* lands where paddy was being cultivated. The area of *kari* lands in the taluk was about 18 square miles. As they were unable to put those lands under the plough owing to difficulties of various kinds in spite of the natural fertility of the soil, it happened sometimes that they were unable to get even enough to pay the land tax. He then enumerated the steps taken of late to mitigate their sufferings which, he submitted, did not go far enough to remove their difficulties and hardships. The remedial measures proposed by the Member were the following:—

(1) The canals and water courses between the *kari* lands and ordinary paddy fields should be so maintained as to enable the ryots to take in all the water baled out of those paddy lands.

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(2) The encroachments on those canals and the *pozhichal* near the Manakkodathu bar should be removed. The *pozhichal* should always be protected from encroachments and no portion of it should be registered.

(3) Certain bunds put up by the people for their own selfish purposes should be removed.

(4) Those bunds should be replaced by sluices which should be so adjusted as to be of use for irrigation, the whole responsibility of regulating the water and working the sluices being entrusted to the D. P. W. The Cochin Government were doing a similar help in respect of lands lying within that State.

The Member also requested that bunds be put up at Penatichira and Pulluveli to prevent the entrance of salt water from the Cochin backwaters and sluices constructed, owing to ebb and flow of water. Four additional bunds with sluices should also be put up at Pallithodu or Changarathumuttu, Arasumuttu, Pandarathimuttu and Neendakarathodumuttu, to obstruct the flow of salt water from the sea through the Anthakarazhi bar.

A Board consisting of the Kottayam Dewan Peishkar, the Chief Engineer and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries should be appointed to investigate the condition of *kari* lands and suggest such remedial measures as they might consider necessary.

A Model Farm for the cultivation of cocoanut palm should be opened and greater facilities afforded to improve trade. At present, people were vending their articles for about a mile on either side of the road from the landing place with great inconvenience and trouble. It would be a great boon if the lands on either side of the canal recently cut were disposed of in convenient blocks and converted into a market. The fish market also should be transferred from the present site to the new canal bank, as it was a source of annoyance to the people in various ways. Lastly, the Member requested that a cattle pound be established at Kuthiathodu for the benefit of the agriculturists.

Dewan's reply.—A sum of Rs. 1,190 has been sanctioned for putting up bunds at Pulluveli, Pandarathi, Arasuthodu, Penatichira and Changarathumuttu. All the suggestions will be carefully considered.

55. Agricultural needs of the Vaikom taluk.

Mr. K. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) submitted that, since the construction of the strong bund at the Valianapuzha river in 1064, the ryots of the taluk cultivating about one lakh of *paras* of paddy lands had often suffered failure of crops owing to the stagnation of water in their paddy lands. There was a canal to serve as an outlet for the water standing within the bunded portion but the *thodu* had become silted up and useless for the free flow of water. Recently, as a result of the complaints made by the people, some repairs were ordered to be carried out ; but the works executed were not satisfactory and gave no relief to the people. The Member, therefore, requested that the bund be cut open and sluices constructed to regulate the flow of water. The Kaniyan *thodu* should also be deepened and made serviceable and the encroachments in parts of the *thodu* removed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Member should address the Dewan Peishkar in regard to the encroachments.

(2) Other Industries.

56. Organisation of an Economic Conference.

Mr. M. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) described the present economic condition of the State due to the war and submitted that the existing system of education was also increasing the number of the unemployed. The only panacea for all the ills the country was suffering from was that Government should start technical

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